

of restoration, conjoined with a proper regard to the welfare and security not only of the sick, but their families and the community. One household has no right to claim an advantage not enjoyed by every family. In not one case in a hundred would there be the ability to secure, outside an institution, just what is desirable."

Besides, as a distinguished writer observes, "In so far as concerns the interest of the insane in poor-houses and jails, they are the especial wards of the State. If she chose to put them out of the way, like noxious beasts, or to let them alone to starve and die, she might say that charity and philanthropy were no part of her mission, and ask who made her their keeper. But when she has laid her hand upon them, put them in places of restraint and detention, and taken control and charge of them, she has made herself their keeper, and has bound herself so to treat them, as shall most conduce to their future well-being, as well as to her own."

But it is believed that this great public necessity no longer needs demonstration. It has been freely conceded, and relief advocated in eloquent terms in both houses of the General Assembly; it has been approved by boards of our wisest men, who, however widely differing in other views, concur in the belief that speedy action is vital to the welfare of society; and the press of the State, with one accord, have earned the gratitude of the afflicted, by the manly and earnest support they have freely given to the proposition for increased accommodations for the insane.

There is no denial of the urgent need, but the cause of delay seems rather to be found in a hesitancy as to the most feasible and desirable plan for meeting the same, with the resources at the command of the State.

QUESTIONS THAT ARISE IN PROVIDING FOR THIS INCREASE.

Inasmuch as discussion has arisen as to the most economical disposition of our means of relief, and various plans have been